

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 USSS-00 SY-05 HA-05 SES-02 SAA-01
IO-13 /112 W

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R 130830Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9975
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7329

CINCPAC: FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AF
SUBJECT: ONGOING ARRESTS OF PRESENT AND FORMER GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS INDICATE REGIME IS STILL UNSURE OF ITS SECURITY

1. SUMMARY: THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE, THE ARREST OF HIS PREDECESSOR, AND THE REPORTED ARRESTS OF SEVERAL OFFICIALS OF THE DAUD REGIME, INDICATE THAT THE AFGHAN POLITICAL POT CONTINUES TO BUBBLE AS THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP STRIVES TO BUBBLE AS THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP STRIVES TO ESTABLISH ITS FIRM CONTROL AND SECURITY. END OF SUMMARY.

2. THE NEW DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE, KHAIR MOHAMMAD SULTANI, HAS BEEN PRESIDENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK SINCE SHORTLY AFTER THE APRIL REVOLUTION. HE IS IN HIS MID-TWENTIES,
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AND WAS A JUNIOR MEMBER OF KABUL UNIVERSITY'S FACULTY OF ECONOMICS PRIOR TO APRIL. IN 1975, SULTANI SPENT TWO MONTHS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH UNDER THE "PROJECT AFGHANISTAN" BILATERAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION REGARDING SULTANI'S POLITICAL VIEWS, BUT HIS APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY MINISTER OBVIOUSLY SUGGESTS THAT HE IS CONSIDERED LOYAL BY THE REGIME. SULTANI IS THE BROTHER OF FEDA M. LAWRI, PRESIDENT OF THE BANK-I-MILL

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3. SULTAN'S PREDECESSOR, MIR MEHRABUDDIN PAKTIAWAL, HAS BEEN ARRESTED. PAKTIAWAL IS A WELL-KNOWN AND LONG-TIME PARCHAMIST, AND HIS DISMISSAL AND ARREST ARE, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, PART OF THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP'S APPARENTLY ONGOING CAMPAIGN AGAINST THOSE WHO CONCEIVABLY MIGHT FORM THE NUCLEUS OF AN ANTI-REGIME, SULTANI IS THE BROTHER OF FEDA M. LAWRE, PRESIDENT OF THE BANK-I-MILLI.

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4. A PARALLEL DEVELOPMENT IS THE REPORTED ARRESTS OF SEVERAL FORMER PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS OF THE DAUDIST ERA. WE HAVE HEARD THAT GHULAM ALI AYEEN (FORMER GOVERNOR OF HERAT PROVINCE, U.S. EDUCATED, AND A GOOD FRIEND OF THE U.S. AND THIS EMBASSY), OMAR KHAIL (PARWAN PROVINCE), AND IBRAHIM KHAIL (PKTIA PROVINCE) HAVE ALL BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY WITHIN THE PAST FEW WEEKS. AYEEN IS AT PUL-I-CHARKI PRISON, AND QUITE ILL.
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5. COMMENT: THE CONTINUING ARRESTS OF OFFICIALS OF FORMER REGIMES, AND THE PURGING OF SELECTED INDIVIDUALS OF THIS FIVE MONTH OLD REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT INDICATE THAT TARAKI AND HIS CLOSEST ADVISERS STILL DO NOT CONSIDER THEIR RULE ENTIRELY SECURE DESPITE A RINGING EDITORIAL IN THE SEPTEMBER 10 GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS THAT "THE PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE AND PEOPLE'S ARMED FORCES OF AFGHANISTAN ARE FULLY IN POWER AS THE HIGHEST GUARDIANS OF PEACE."
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